

State Advisory Committee for Children with Disabilities
NH Department of Education
October 1, 2014
Room 15
4:30-7:00pm
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Bonnie Dunham (Chair), Daniel Ward, Joan Holleran, Audrey Burke, Heidi Cloutier, Karen Rosenberg, Maureen Tracey, Sue Marcotte-Jenkins, Jean Parsons, Ellen Boudreau, Michelle Rosado

Guests: Sheila Ward (Parent and ELO), Alan Pardy (NHASEA), Santina Thibedeau (Administrator, Bureau of Special Education)

Agenda Item I: Welcome

- **Bonnie requested attendees introduce themselves**
 - **Review of minutes from September 10th Annual Retreat**
 - Correction - Item 7: should be ICC – not PIC
 - **Announcements**
 - NH Dyslexia Conference held at SERESC (Friday, September 26, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM)
- **No New Nominations**
- **Public Comment:** Alan Pardy – Provided a copy of his testimony (9/24/2014) regarding House Bill 1128 – how Special Education is being implemented in Charter Schools for children with IEPs & 504 plans (making sure these specified students are receiving the appropriate level of services with the charter school)
 - Charter schools relationships with school districts, spikes in cost for individual students, unexpected bills for districts (has to ensure Free, Appropriate Public Education [FAPE])
 - Jean discussed the “Civil Rights” aspect, taking money out of the picture (talking about FAPE)
 - **VLACS (Virtual Learning Academy)– online courses for students (IEPs)**
 - Alan distributed a copy of his testimony to SAC members
- **Joan** – deaf and hard of hearing: Thursday, November 13th 2014 from 4:00-5:30pm - *What's Next? Life After High School* (held at the University of New Hampshire Manchester Campus)
- **Bonnie** – provided an overview of upcoming bills and a brief overview of events that occurred last year, handout provided at meeting with the agenda (October 1, 2014)
- **Bonnie** – read thank you from Commissioner Barry (regarding recommendations made [April 2, 2014] for unmet needs of children with disabilities in the state of New Hampshire)
- **Maureen** – New Hampshire Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (NH LEND) - Program at UNH – New Hampshire DD Council
 - Possibilities of a survey for parents and families looking at what the needs are for the target children in regards to transition

Agenda Item II: Legislative Update

- **DOE** – initial proposal - RSA 126 (restraints and seclusion)
- **SAC Liaison Updates** –
 - Sue (speaking on behalf of Ruth Littlefield, Education Consultant from the Bureau), provided information with regards to SSIP (State Systemic Improvement Plan)
 - Santina provided information on the number of meetings scheduled

Agenda Item III: Old Business

- **Re-Cap of SAC Retreat** –
 - How to proceed: Deaf and Hard of Hearing guidelines overview
 - Sue's report to the ICC – early supports and services (revisited the information she provided at the Annual SAC Retreat (September 10, 2014))
 - Dan, Candace & Catherine – absent parents (NHDOE take action to develop and implement policies relating to the coordination of services for students with disabilities who are vulnerable to having behavior disabilities due to absent parents)
 - Bonnie thinks subcommittee should revisit to ensure that the needs of these targeted students to be met
 - Mary-Ellen – "Go Blue" campaign, will next give update at next scheduled SAC meeting, November 5th

Agenda Item IV: Update from the Bureau

- **Santina** –
 - OSEP Grant – 5 year grant (State Personnel Development Grant/Next Steps-NH) secondary transition, best practices, selection process of schools (currently in 2nd cohort)
 - Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) – Santina spoke about how the opportunity is great about personalized learning invited Sheila Ward to speak on the topic of ELOs
 - Sheila Ward – parent, representing ELOs, informed group about the benefits, how the program works, ELOs to help with transition plans
 - Next Steps to increase ELOs
 - Heidi spoke about how schools don't want to offer ELOs because of funding and having to offer them to ALL students (more work and money)
 - Funding for ELOs covered by the district & Next Steps grant
 - Data collection happening right now (RFA) & Next Steps from Cohort Schools

Agenda Item V: Subcommittees

- **Top 2 Subcommittees (tie) – Secondary Transition & Children with Disabilities Who Have Absent Parent(s)**
- **3rd Committee – Ensuring that School Boards and Other Key Stakeholders are Well-Informed**

Agenda Item VI: Reports from Subcommittees

- **Secondary Transition**
 - Short term goal review
 - Maybe getting the resource map out for the multi-tiered system
 - Connecting with Higher-Ed
 - Would like analysis of needs for those approaching secondary transition map
- **Children with Disabilities with Absent Parents**
 - Staff in the DOE who provide services to these groups
 - Veterans
 - Foster Care
 - Educational Surrogate Parents (how identified and what their role is, educational not social)
 - Want to be able to identify data points
 - Need to find a way to share information better
- **Ensuring that School Boards & Other Key Stakeholders are well-informed**
 - Short term goal – how to make school boards & other key stakeholders aware of the resources that are available for Special Education - where is the money being spent?
 - Understanding of the laws (Special Education is a right not a favor)
 - Finding a way to provide information to groups that pertain to their focus

Agenda Item VII: New Business

- Maureen suggested that Sheila Ward should be a member of SAC
- Karen – Emerging issue: Lakeview NeuroRehabilitation Center (neurobehavioral & brain damage) update
 - Death of an adult placed at the Center
 - Distributed 2 summary reports of the investigations done by DRC regarding Lakeview
 - Additional founded complaints of abuse and neglect
 - Governor's press release (handout) (October 2, 2014)
- Karen – Open house at the Disability Rights Center – NH (October 23, 2014 from 3:30 – 6:00pm)
- Heidi – Spoke about NH 4 Youth (a multi-disciplinary initiative fixing barriers and improving behavioral health outcomes children, youth and their families in New Hampshire).

Agenda Item VIII: Meeting Adjourn

- Bonnie adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm
 - Next meeting November 5th